that they would not be eligible to be awarded the contract. Now the Government says that they have awarded the contracts to 13 companies. They have not named them. I think, they shuld name them. They should also inform the House as to what consideration prevailed upon them in awarding the contracts despite the opposite view of the RDSO which was communicated to the Minister by the Director (Track), Railway Board.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, there is a slight misunderstanding here, and I would like to make it much more clear to the hon. Member. Sir, on these 13 firms which have been referred to by the hon. Member, only developmental orders have been placed for the supply of switches and crossings. Sir, normally to keep a healthy competition, we award the required quantity to the proven, established firms, and at the same time, out of the tendered quantity, we give some developmental orders to some firms so that they can develop. In this case, the RDSO has gone to these 13 firms where certain infrastructure might have been found to be satisfactory. However, unless and until the developmental order is placed, the firm cannot develop the infrastructure. The RDSO has to inspect the prototype which will be developed by these firms and only then developmental orders are placed after being satisfied that they conform to the required specifications. And then only these firms will be cleared for regular manufacture. Once they start regular manufacturing, they may compete with the established firms; they will be eligible to compete with them. We placed developmental order on these 13 firms for only less than one per cent of the quantity of switches and crossings required by us.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Sir, the reply is not at all clear. My question now is whether the Government can place an order on a firm which does not exist, where the infrastructure does not exist. I want to know whether such orders can be placed on such firms. I also want to know whether the Government has further evaluated its own manufacturing units under the Railways and whether it has assessed the possibility of placing its orders on those units.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I totally rule it out. The Government will not commit any such mistake, of placing its orders on a non-existing firm. Orders are placed after tenders are notified. The technical committee goes into it and after taking various factors into consideration, orders will be placed.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : But what are those various factors?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

*124. [*The questioner Shri Krishna Kumar Birla) was absent for answer vide Col ..... infra*]

*125. The questioner (Shri Ramachandran Pillai) was absent. For answer vide Col..... infra]

उर्वरक उत्पादक एककों को रियायती दर पर पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की आपूर्ति

*126. श्रीमति सुषमा स्वराज : श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में उर्वरक उत्पादक एककों को रियायत दर पर पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की आपूर्ति किए जाने का निर्णय किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार कौन-कौन से पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को किन-किन रियायती दरों पर इन एककों को सप्लाई करने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) क्या इस बारे में कोई आकलन किया गया है कि देश में ऐसे एककों की पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की कुल कितनी वार्षिक मांग है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और सरकार इस वार्षिक मांग का कितने प्रतिशत रियायती दर पर उन्हें सप्लाई करने का विचार रखती है?

*सभा में यह प्रश्न श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज द्वारा पूछा गया।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHANGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Naphtha, LSHS and FO are being supplied at the concessional rates to fertilizer units at the lower rates of duty at the following prices.

Product	Ex-storage price Rs /selling unit	
	Fertilizer	Non-fertilizer
1. Naphtha	3722.78	6075.69
2. LHS	2851.57	4804.07
3. F.O.	2812.43	4988.81

(c) and (d) Out of the total annual demand about 65—70% is for Naphtha and about 25—28% is for FO/LSHS for fertilizer use.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं आपके माध्यम से यह शिकायत दर्ज कराना चाहती हूं कि सरकार आधे-अधूरे जवाब देकर सदस्यों को संतुष्ट करना चाहती है। आप देखिए, मेरे सवाल का भाग "सी"... (**व्यवधान**)।

'Whether any assessment has been made regarding total annual demand of such units in the country for petroleum products;

सर, पहला सप्लीमेंट्री तो मूल प्रश्न का पूरा जवाब लेने में ही निकल जाता है।

मैंने यह जानना चाहा था कि यह जितने खाद बनाने वाली फैक्ट्रियां हैं, इनकी पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स की एनुअल डिमांड क्या है और जवाब दिया है—

out of the total annual demand, about 65—70% is for Naphtha and about 25—28% is for FO/LSHS for fertilizer use.

पहले यह तो बताइये कि टोटल एनुअल डिमांड है कितनी ? सौ टन में से 65 और 70 फीसदी नेफथा है, सौ टन में से 25 और 28 फीसदी एफ० ओ० और एल० एस० एच० एस० है, टोटल एनुअल डिमांड कितनी है ? इसके बारे में कोई जवाब नहीं, जवाब बिलकुल मौन है।

सर, भाग "डी" में मैंने जानना चाहा था ... (**व्यवधान**) अभी उसी में देखिए। भाग "डी" में ... (**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can the hon. Minister give the total demand ? ..... (*Interruptions*) Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, you add your supplementary so that both can be answered.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सर, भाग "डी" में मैंने जानना चाहा था, अभी यह पूरा नहीं हुआ, भाग "डी" में मैंने जानना चाहा था कि,

> "....what is the percentage of this annual demand which is proposed to be supplied by Government at concessional rates."

जितनी कुल मांग का कितने फीसदी हम रियायती दर पर देते हैं उन यूनिट्स की पूरी की पूरी मांग रियायती दर पर देते हैं या कोई खास फीसदी देते हैं, इस का कोई जवाब नहीं ? अब यह कोई तरीका नहीं है कि हम पहले जो सप्लीमेंट्री क्वेश्चन है वह तो मेन क्वेश्चन का पूरा जवाब लेने में ही लगा दें और फिर दूसरे पूरक प्रश्न हमारे

पूछे जाएं। सर, पहले आप मेरे मूल प्रश्न का उत्तर दिलवाईये कि टोटल एनुअल डिमांड कितनी है और उस टोटल एनुअल डिमांड का कितना फीसदी हम रियायती दर पर देते हैं या पूरे का पूरा रियायती दर पर देते हैं ? पहले वह जवाब आए, तब मैं सप्लीमेन्ट्री पूछूंगी। ... (व्यवधान) ... इसके बाद मुझे दो सप्लीमेन्ट्री पूछनी हैं।

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, it has become a regular practice of not replying fully and misleading us. It is only through you, Sir, that one could request the treasury benches to be more correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking the Minister .... (*Interruptions*) .. Will the hon. Minister be able to answer this ?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सर, यह पहले सवाल का उत्तर दें, फिर दो पूरक प्रश्न पूछूंगी, फिर दो सप्लीन्ट्री पूछूंगी।

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : We have the statistics in regard to the total offtake of naphtha, LSHS, fuel oil, etc.. for fertiliser plants, petro-chemical plants and others. We have the total. It is a long table. We have answered the question..

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सर, यह लांग टेबल की जरूरत नहीं है।

Kindly tell me what is the total demand. .....(*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, are you satisfied with the way in which the question is being answered ? If you are satisfied .... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will the Minister be able to give the total demand ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The total demand for and offtake of, fertilisers are concomitant because as we have not refused anybody.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सर, अगर टोटल डिमांड ही हमें पता नहीं है तो मुझे समझ नहीं आता कि हम अपनी नीति कैसे बनाते हैं ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The total demand—annual—in the country for naphtha, is 3.5 million tonnes. Out of this, 65—75 per cent is for fertiliser plans. For fuel oil, LSHS, the total demand is 9.3 million tonnes. Out of this, 25—28 per cent is for fertiliser plants.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, please ask your supplementary now.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सर, अब मैं सप्लीमेंटरी पूछूंगी मेरी पहली सप्लीमेंटरी यह है कि खाद के दामों के सम्बन्ध में एक संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (जे०पी०सी०) का गठन किया गया था और जे०पी०सी० ने खाद के दामों को निचले स्तर पर रखने के लिए यह सिफारिश की थी कि खाद बनाने वाले जो कारखाने हैं उनको पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद सस्ते दर पर दिया जाए। तो मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि जो जवाब मंत्री जी ने दिया है यह जे०पी०सी० की सिफारिशात को मंजूर करने के बाद के दाम हैं या पहले के दाम हैं ? मंत्री जी, बताइये ... (व्यवधान)

इस वक्त अगर मंत्री जी तैयार नहीं हैं तो इस सवाल को किसी और दिन के लिए रख लीजिए ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, what is this ? The Minister is not answering this. .... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is answering. ..(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Will you please repeat the question ? .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, this is highly objectionable. He wants her to repeat the question. What was he doing all this time ? .. (*Interruptions*) .. ....

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सर, मेरा कथन बहुत सीधा और बड़ा छोटा है कि जे०पी०सी० जो बनी थी उस जे०पी०सी०

ने यह सिफारिश की थी कि खाद बनाने वाले कारखानों को पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद सस्ते दर पर दिया जाए ताकि खाद के दाम कम रहें ... (व्यवधान) मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगी कि यह जो दाम इन्होंने बताए हैं कि हम इतने दर पर उनको दे रहे हैं यह जे०पी०सी० की सिफारिशात को मानने के बाद के दाम हैं या पहले के दाम हैं ? सिर्फ इतना सा सवाल है।

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I am quite prepared to answer. In fact, I was waiting for her to finish her supplementary. In paragraph 21, the Committee on Fertiliser Pricing had stated that the price of naphtha, fuel oil and LSHS, for the fertiliser industry, should be frozen, keeping in view the reduction in gas price. This was the recommendation of the Committee. Therefore, the freezing of the price of naphtha, etc., for fertiliser use, was conditional on the reduction in gas price. We did not reduce the gas price. We did not agree to the reduction because it would have grave implications for further investment in the growth of gas exploration and production in this country. Keeping in view the fact that the petroleum sector was already heavily subsidising the fertilizer industry by about more than one thousand crores of rupees and because there were inherent advantages, environmental efficiency. etc., it was decided by a group of Ministers that it was not desirable to further burden the petroleum sector through subsidies. Instead, in the next round of revision of price if gas prices are increased the Committee recommended that the increase for in the fertilizer need not be effected. So, this is the situation. We have not gone against the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committe. We have fully adhered to the recommendations.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, मेरा जो सवाल था वह यह था कि पहले की प्राइसेस क्या थीं और जे०पी०सी० के बाद की प्राइसेस क्या हैं ? मैंने यह पूछा यह था कि जे०पी०सी० की सिफारिशात के बाद के दाम हैं या पहले के दाम हैं ? मैंने तो यह पूछा ही नहीं जिसका कि आपने इतना लम्बा-चौड़ा जवाब दे दिया। सभापति महोदय, जे०पी०सी० की रिकमंडेशन्स जस-की-तस कैबिनेट ने स्वीकार की थीं, यह घोषणा आई थी। अब यह जो दाम आपने बतलाए हैं यह जे०पी०सी० की रिकमंडेशन्स के बाद के दाम हैं या पहले के ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, my hon. colleague has explained in detail about the recommendation of the JPC for reduction in gas price for the purpose of helping the farmers. He has given the answer in detail. The hon. Member in her second supplementry wants to know..

HON. MEMBERS : It is her first supplementary.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : .... whether the price was after the recommendation or bfore the recommendation. We have not said anything about the increase or decrease in the prices, but the reaction from the Government. Regarding the recommendation of the JPC for reduction in price, this was considered in the meeting of the Group of Ministers.

The Ministers went in detail and we have ultimately found that the gas price should not be reduced. So, the price is before the recommendation.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, मैं इसे दूसरी तरह से पूछ लेती हूं कि यह जो दाम यहां दिए गए हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... वह मेरा सवाल नहीं समझ रहे हैं। मैं इसको दूसरे तरीके से पूछ लेती हूं। यह जो दाम यहां दिए गए हैं, यह कौनसी तारीख को निश्चित किए गए थे ? क्या जे०पी०सी० की रिकमंडेशन के बाद में कोई बदलाव नहीं आया ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are they the same prices ? Mr. Minister, is there any change or are they the same prices ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : This is given in the answer that it is after the revision of the price.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : He has further confused. ..(*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER : They have not done anything after the recommendation of the JPC.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : She is asking whether the price is after the recommendation of the JPC or before the JPC, not about revision.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : He must reply whether they are the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come out with the second supplementary.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : यह तो फर्स्ट सप्लीमेन्टरी हुई है। मेरी सेकन्ड सप्लीमेन्टरी यह है कि जे० पी० सी० की रिकमंडेशन्स को कैबिनेट ने जस-का-तस स्वीकार किया था, इन-टोटो बिना किसी वैरिएशन के स्वीकार किया था। क्या उस रिकमंडेशन्स पर पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री अमल करने नहीं जा रही है? जे० पी० सी० ने जो रिकमंडेशन्स की थीं, उसको कैबिनेट ने जस-का-तस, विदाउट एनी वैरिएशन, विदाउट एनी मॉडिफिकेशन एक्सेप्ट किया था तो क्या पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय उस पर अमल करने नहीं जा रहा है।

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The Government has not accepted the recommendations of the JPC with respect to the gas pricing and naphtha pricing. I have explained the circumstances in which we did not accept it and the prices given by us in the answer to the question are relating to 16-9-1992, that is, ex. storage point prices after the recent price revision which is after the recommendations of the JPC.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to Combat also

*124. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of potential danger of AIDS, Government propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to ensure better quality of blood and blood products;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the number of AIDS patients in the country, and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to spend substantial Funds, to combat this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (d) The Government have already issued statutory guidelines under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and the Rules framed thereunder to ansure the safety of blood and blood-products. It is now mandatory for blood banks to establish all required testing facilities to ansure the quality and safety of the human blood to be transfused. However in order to specifically ensure the blood for transfusion to be free from Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV), the Government have set up AIDS Surveillance Centres and Zonal Blood Testing Centres as additional facilities for blood banks which do not immediately have such testing facilities. The Government has also finalised a set of comprehensive amendments to the procedures for licensing blood banks, for getting the HIV tests done either in their own premises or in the institutions approved by the Government and for providing joint inspection of blood banks by the Central Government and the State Government as a pre-requisite for granting or renewing the licence. These are going to be notified shortly.

No mass survey has been done to detect the total number of AIDS patients in the country. However, surveillance done through 62 Surveillance Centres functioning in different parts of the country amoung the groups practising high-risk behaviour has revealed a total number of 10,856 cases of HIV infection out of a